

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Listing of Claims

The following listing of claims replaces all previous listings or versions thereof:

1. (Currently amended) A method for predicting irritant potential of a candidate substance comprising:
 - a) providing a mammalian keratinocyte cell that releases a ~~nucleotide~~ATP and/or ADP in response to an inflammatory agent;
 - b) culturing said mammalian keratinocyte cell with a candidate substance; and
 - c) determining ~~nucleotide~~ATP and/or ADP release from said mammalian keratinocyte cell,wherein an increase in ~~nucleotide~~ATP and/or ADP release from said mammalian keratinocyte cell, as compared to ~~nucleotide~~ATP and/or ADP release in the absence of said candidate substance, indicates that said candidate substance is an irritant.
2. (Canceled) The method of claim 1, wherein said cell is a fibroblast.
3. (Canceled) The method of claim 1, wherein said cell is a keratinocyte.
4. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~[[3]]~~1, wherein said cell is a human keratinocyte.
5. (Currently amended)The method of claim ~~[[3]]~~1, wherein said cell is a mouse keratinocyte.
6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein said cell is a PAM 212 cell.
7. (Canceled) The method of claim 1, wherein said nucleotide is ATP and/or ADP and/or AMP, UTP and/or UDP and/or UMP, CTP and/or CDP and/or CMP, TTP and/or TDP and/or TMP, or GTP and/or GDP and/or GMP.

8. (Canceled) The method of claim 1, wherein said nucleotide is ATP and/or ADP and/or AMP.
9. (Canceled) The method of claim 1, wherein said nucleotide is UTP and/or UDP and/or UMP.
10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein determining nucleotide release from said cell comprises measuring nucleotide concentration in the cell culture medium.
11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein measuring nucleotide concentration comprises an enzymatic assay.
12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein said enzymatic assay is a luciferin-luciferase assay.
13. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 10, wherein measuring nucleotide concentration comprises thin layer chromatography.
14. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said candidate substance is a naturally-occurring compound.
15. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said candidate substance is a man-made compound.
16. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising measuring nucleotide release from said cell in the absence of said candidate substance.
17. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising a control comprising:
 - a) contacting said cell with a known irritant; and
 - b) measuring nucleotide release from said cell.

18-143. (Canceled)